



18TH eHEALTH NETWORK, 12-13 NOVEMBER 2020, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

COVER NOTE

5.3 Activities report from eHealth Network subgroup on Semantics

1. Issue at stake

In June 2019, the eHealth Network approved the creation of a *subgroup on semantics* to start working on November 2019. In November 2019, the Common Semantic Strategy document (five-year semantic strategy) was adopted by the eHealth Network and became the vision that guides the work of the Semantics sg.

Since then, the eHealth Network sub-group on Semantics has been working towards the three main goals established in the eHealth Network Common Semantic Strategy:

- G1 – Structure a common approach on health semantics in the European Union
- G2 – Provide guidance for EU level decisions on health semantics
- G3 – Ensuring establishment and continuity on health semantics in the EU

The subgroup is now (November 2020) reaching 1 year of activity.

2. Summary

During the first year of activity the *eHealth Network subgroup on Semantics* was able to establish the rules of procedures (adapted from the eHealth Network general rules of procedures) and consolidated the way of working (i.e. monthly meetings, task forces, liaison with other work groups and projects, knowledge base and collaboration platform) and

The eHealth Network subgroup on Semantics developed work in the following matters:

- a) Evolution of “eHealth Network guidelines on Patient Summary dataset”. Further details on this topic will be presented later on this meeting in a specific topic “8.1 Patient Summary guidelines”;
- b) “Process and Criteria for recommendation development” to allow an open, transparent, and coherent process for development of eHealth Network Subgroup on Semantics recommendations.
- c) Horizon scanning of “COVID-19 health data coding practices and data sources” and identify best practices in Member States that could be used as lessons learnt and, possibly, scaled up at EU level.

- d) Liaison with X-eHealth and UNICOM projects, as well as engaging with the eHDSI Semantic Task Force and eHealth Network subgroup on Technical Interoperability.
- e) Recently, the subgroup engaged with the “EU Vaccination Card” project, that requested the contribution and advise on the semantic aspects being proposed by the project with particular focus on ensuring alignment with eHealth Network interoperability guidelines.

During this presentation, the report back will focus mainly on point c) taking in consideration the outcomes from the work performed. Topic a) and b) will be presented in a dedicated topic later on this meeting. Regarding topics d) and e), a detailed report can be provided in the spring 2021 eHealth Network meeting, since for the time being these work items are in the very beginning.

3. Format of procedure in the meeting

For information

The eHealth Network members that have not yet nominated a representative to the Semantics subgroup (currently only missing 7 Member States), are invited to do so and start active participation.